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ON THE HOMESTAGE

Auspicious Opening of the
New Powers' Grand

BY MANOLA-MASON COMPANY

"Good Old Times" at the Grand—Spe-
cialty at Smith's—Local Lobby
Chatter—Stage Notes.

The appearance here as stars of the favorite actor, John Mason, and the popular prima donna, Marion Manola, and the Manola-Mason company, whose performances of late have been a matter of much note and comment will find realization on Thursday evening next, the occasion being the inauguration of the new Powers' opera house. The Manola-Mason company have been the recipients of most flattering notices from the press and public on account of which Manager



Powers secured them for his opening. The enterprise which Mr. and Mrs. Mason have started is, it is believed, entitled to more than a passing mention.

Mr. Mason learned his first stage lessons at the Boston Museum, afterwards went to New York, but finally returned and was for several seasons a prominent figure there, where he made many successes. Miss Manola's name is indissolubly connected with most of the comic opera successes in the country during the past five years, her English record resting on her successful assumption in London of the title role of Dekoven's charming opera known here as "Robin Hood."

The double bill which begins their engagement in Powers, comprises a new comedy (with music), entitled, "If I Were You," by William Young, best known as author of "The Rajah," this to be preceded by a new one act play called "The Army Surgeon," written by the well known London actor, Stanislaus Stange.

The music with which "If I Were You" is interspersed, with the exception of the ballads sung by Miss Manola, has been written by the English composer, Julian Edwards, assisted by Carlo Torricelli, the musical director of the Manola-Mason company. As most of the vocal burden will rest upon Miss Manola and Mr. Mason, the company has been engaged with special reference to the comedy. The choice of such clever people as Annie M. Clarke, Robert McWade, James R. Booth, Edward P. Temple and Hattie E. Schell, therefore become apparent.

Whether the new stars, new company, new plays and new music will please our audiences, is a question which must necessarily rest in abeyance until the opening, at which time both of the plays above mentioned will be seen. T. W. Robertson's standard comedy, "Caste," will also be presented.

At the Grand This Week.

After a comedy usually comes melodrama for a change, and Wilson Barrett's play of "Good Old Times," with its pathos and fun mixed in, should meet with a generous reception this week at the popular Grand. This piece is new to our playgoers, but its history belongs to the great successes of the day. It was originally played in London for 200 nights; then in New York for 100 performances, and since in all the metropolitan theaters of the country with satisfactory success.



This said to be a play of very strong interest, constructed in familiar lines which, in a literary and dramatic sense, appear as the legitimate rather than the melodrama. It is a well balanced play, mixing in humor with sterner pathos and should command, as it does, the favor of all classes of playgoers. It is the following story:

John Langley's wife is thought to be false to him, but in defense of her honor and her life, she shoots the villain of the play. Loving her in spite of all, and to save her from the consequences of her act, Langley nobly assumes her guilt. In this he is transported to Australia, where she is the victim of a cruel fate. She is eventually rescued, however, being taken to him. Recognition follows and naturally reconciliation, and as they are about to settle down into happy peace, Langley and his convict friend, having escaped, attack the farm house and run Mary Langley off. Langley follows

and after existing scenes the convicts are rounded up and stranger is killed. The piece, it is pronounced, will be handsomely staged by special scenery and some electrical effects which are referred to as novel and brilliant, especially the fire-dances flashing through the semi-darkness of the bush. The company is said to be very strong, and is led by Henry M. Pitt, a prominent actor of the east, and by Miss Lucie Lewis, a lady who adds to an ambitious ability, a handsome personality and a magnetism that is fast winning for her an established prominence on the American stage. Matinees as usual.

Specialty and Comedy at Smith's.

Some idea of what is in store for the patrons of Smith's this week may be had from the bill which announces beautiful statues and languishing sylphs. In the olio will appear Lotta La Rose, who is claimed to be a peerless song and dance artist; Clements and Barnes, in a refined plantation specialty entitled "Fish Heads;" Freddie Arlington, jig and reel dancer; the Lemmons, in an original Chinese sketch; Ella Wainwright, skirt and Spanish dancer; La Rose brothers, trick tumblers, and Howard and Mareno, character change artists. A new legitimate comedy by that tireless play writer, Den Howe, entitled "The Green-Eyed Monster," will be given by the pick of the stock company and will terminate the program. Matinees Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Wade's Metropolitan Stars.

Wade's Metropolitan Stars of Brooklyn, N. Y., consisting of Miss Pearl May Vandervoort, musical artist; Miss Ida M. Godbold, contralto soloist and pianist; Mr. Edward Bush, humorist and buffo bass; Mr. Howard S. Starrett, polyphonist, concertist and song-writer, will give an entertainment at P. Powers' new opera house Wednesday evening, November 30, under the auspices of the Valley City Council, No. 511, Royal Arcanum. They come highly recommended by the New York press.

Local Lobby Chatter.

George P. Goodale, of the Detroit Free Press, thus comments upon the bazaar dramatization, "Therese," which has been brought to the stage by the Mrs. James Brown-Potter-Belle alliance: "The play is in four acts and is nearly all gloomy and depressing when it is not maddeningly monotonous. It has not one elevating thought and it can serve no good end as a play. It leaves the spectator with a morbid and disquieting sense of having passed through a dream without the redeeming feature of having been entertained. Our stage can get along without resorting to M. Zola."

Miss Rhea will, on the opening night of her forthcoming engagement in this city, again be seen as the heroine in Mr. Haven's beautiful historic drama "Josephine." It is one of the recommendations of this play that it exhibits in a clear light the fortitude of woman and the devotion of a noble spirit that quailed not at supreme sacrifice for the object of woman's love. Such exhibitions are always of value to human society. Rhea's embodiment of Josephine tends to make men better and it shows women the way to empire over men's hearts. What more could the severest moralist demand?

W. D. Loudon, manager of Mlle. Rhea, was in town Friday evening. This actress, who is a fixed favorite with Grand Rapids theater patrons, comes to Powers' New Grand, November 25, 26 and matinee, and will present the following plays in the order named: "Josephine," "Much Ado About Nothing," and Sardou's "Princess Andrea."

Proprietor Powers has more than kept the promise he made when the workmen commenced to labor in the ruins of his theater. He said that he would have it open to the public November 15. The public was invited in to the theater last night, so Mr. Powers' calculation came good, with three days to spare.

Recent letters state that Manager Charles H. Garwood is improving in health out in Colorado. His partner, Mr. Brady, who was in the city a few days ago, expressed the belief that Mr. Garwood would be able to return to Michigan in the spring.

Election week, like holy week, has been looked upon as disastrous in a business sense. It was an exception, however, in this city. The theaters were crowded every night, and on Tuesday night people were turned away.

Manager Stair's Thanksgiving week attraction will be the Field and Hason novelty company. It contains new and refined specialties, a style of amusement always popular with the patrons of the Grand.

"Jane," the pretty domestic drama which ran all of last season in New York, will follow the Manola-Mason company at Powers' new Grand.

Music will be made a feature at the new Powers. Mr. Wainwright's orchestra of nine pieces is composed of men capable and well experienced.

Harry Wood, stage manager at Smith's, is not to be outdone by Den Howe. He spends his leisure time now writing comedies.

Joe Lang, who managed the old Wonderland theater about five years ago, paid a flying visit to the city one day last week.

Manager Powers proposes that the public of this city shall see only the best attractions in his handsome theater.

Not That Kind of a Heroine.

There was a titter from the ranks as the captain of the Young Ladies' Marching club turned to salute the reviewing party.

"Attention!" shouted that important officer, putting on her most military air and growing red in the face.

Some faces were straightened and others grew more convulsed in response to this order.

The line swept on.

A suppressed giggle or two reached the ears of the commander, who grew redder still.

The line swept on.

But the captain rushed up to the second platoon and remarked in a hoarse whisper:

"Say, Laura, is my back hair coming down?"

And the line swept on.—Exchange.

FIT FOR THE GODS

The New Powers Grand Opera
House

THE THEATER OF THE STATE

Superbly Decorated and a Revelation of
the Artist's Taste—Description
of Its Features.

It can be truthfully said that the theater has kept pace in advancement with the other elements and agencies of life. It was as crude in its inception as was civilization in this country, beginning with the Indian in the dug-out. The theater was a recognized institution among the ancients, as far back as 500 B. C., when Thespis acted his plays in a wagon. The performances of Alchylus were given on temporary wooden scaffolds. The first great temple of amusement was built by the Athenians, and it was known as the theater of Dionysus. It required 160 years to build it, and it was constructed of solid stone. The theater has from this crude condition come down through the ages in various and unique forms, until today the humblest community has its stage and players. Grand Rapids has passed through its stage of progress in developing a following for Thespis—who is the god of amusement. Up to the present day the city has had its career of rude halls in which people assembled for amusement.

The Powers' Grand. The dedication of the new Powers' Grand which will take place with éclat and due ceremonial form, on next Thursday evening, is an event which must mark the art and the skill of the time. But a little over three months ago the old Powers' Opera house was a charred ruin, its parquet and galleries filled with the confused debris of a destructive fire. It presented indeed a discouraging picture to its owner. The prospect of removing the ruins and ashes, and replacing them with a suitable and convenient theater in time for the winter season, was one that did not at first glance seem easy of accomplishment. The Hon. William T. Powers, with undaunted determination resolved that he would build a theater that would be a credit and pride to the city, a monument to his energy and perseverance, and in beauty unequalled in the peninsular state. This resolve has been realized in a most gratifying manner, and today on the ruins of three months ago there stands a new and unique and complete all of its designs, and handsome and attractive in its art and decorations. As a modern playhouse it is complete in every detail.

Patrons will enter the house just east of the old building. In the alley which was long known as Kent alley, though the private property of Mr. Powers, there has been constructed a pretty three-story building with a commodious bay window front above the first story. Passing through the entrance, which is wide and airy, and ascending a half dozen steps, you stand on the foyer proper. To the right is the stairway leading to the dress circle. This stairway will not be used as an exit, there being a separate exit and foyer on the next floor so that the occupants of the upper tiers will not, after being once inside come in contact with the auditor on the parquet floor. At the end of the lower foyer there are cloak rooms and toilet rooms for the women. The entrances from the foyer are very wide, probably twenty feet or more, and they are handsomely draped with green flax velvet. The entrances above are equal in width and are draped with pink flax velvet.

Refined Decorations.

The decorations are not gaudy, but refined and rich. They are in every sense artistic, and they should be as they were designed by Buck, the famous artist of the world's fair. Old gold is the prevailing color theme, though it is slightly but harmoniously contrasted by the colors on the ceilings and side walls, which are a shade or so lighter. The material of the decorations around the dress circle rail and the boxes is plastic, and it is moulded into exquisite forms. Above the upper boxes are figures typical of music and the drama. Over the proscenium arch on either side are life-sized figures, one typifying art, the other the drama. Above the upper boxes are pictures illustrating the drama, the music and more. The proscenium arch stands out in bolder relief than the other ornamentations, and it is enriched with a border of incandescent lights. The effect this produces can be better admired than described.

The Proscenium Boxes.

There are ten boxes in all, two on each side of the proscenium, a line number on the dress circle floor and one on each side of the upper tier. There are also on the parquet in front of the entrance to the boxes two loges. The draperies of the boxes are artistic and tasty, and were hung by Ed Tummore and James McKendry, the head draper of Spring & Co. The draperies in the lower boxes are satin drapery of olive green tint, the boxes above of old silk madras and the others of pink silk madras.

The chairs furnished by the Grand Rapids School Furniture Company are of the best modern design. The chairs and divans in the parquet are upholstered in crimson plush, and the remainder on the floor in old gold, harmonizing nicely with the general ornamentation. Best of all, every seat is roomy and comfortable.

The ceiling, which is constructed of steel, shows possibly more diversity in coloring than the other portions of the house, the predominating tint being sky-blue. In the center is a large ventilator, under which is suspended a circle of electric lights.

AUCTION SALE OF SEATS.

The Expected Crowd Failed to Inva-
de the New Powers.

There was but a fair assemblage at the inspection of Powers' beautiful new theater last evening, among them being a good sprinkling of the fair sex. It was believed that there was curiosity enough to see the new house to create a crush, but there was not.

When those present had partially ceased their adulations of the bright auditorium, Auctioneer L. B. Wilson

appeared upon the stage and invited a bid for first choice of the boxes. "I'll give \$10," said Dudley Waters, who occupied a choice parquet divan. "Ten dollars I'm bid. Who will make it \$20? Who'll make it \$20?" continued the auctioneer.

But no one raised the price and Dudley got it for ten, and immediately plunked down the money. N. A. Fletcher got the next choice for \$10, and Guy Johnston the third at the same figure. There was nobody else in the crowd yearning for boxes or box seats, and the auctioneer tried to arouse some excitement and rivalry for premiums on parquet seats, but the highest bid received was one dollar. No one would raise this figure and everybody was invited to come up and make a selection at this figure. About fifty responded. The sale will be continued on Monday, when seats may be secured for any performance during the engagement.

General Stage News.

What ill fortune is it that hangs over the Scanlan family? Last year, when the most widely known theatrical member of the family had reached the very apex of his career he was overtaken by the dread disorder which has placed so many players within the walls of Bloomingdale, and only a week ago the sister (Sadie) of the departed comedian, who, after a protracted struggle, had finally planted her feet upon the solid rock of prosperity became suddenly ill and died. She was booked to appear in Grand Rapids.

Henry Irving, whose judgment of plays and their possibilities is generally sound, denies that he ever had any intention of putting Sir Edwin Arnold's Japanese play on the stage of the London Lyceum.

Chauncey Olcott, who has often appeared here with Primrose and West's minstrels, is now playing Scanlan's part in "Marionette." The tour began most auspiciously at Yonkers, N. Y., last Thursday night.

Charles H. Hoyt, the well-known playwright, has just been elected to the legislature from Charlotte, N. H. Look out by and by for a spicy satirical farce comedy on American politics.

Evans and Hoey, after playing "A Parlor Match" for nearly a dozen years, promise to have a new comedy next season which will have a number of innovations.

The theatrical profession is subscribing generously in aid of Dr. Houghton's church, New York, popularly known as "The Little Church Around the Corner."

W. A. Whitecar, who gave a sensational performance of "The Vendetta" at the Grand last winter, is starring with Laura Almonino in "Lady Lil."

That really great actor, the greatest that England has sent us in this generation, E. S. Willard, is packing the theaters wherever he appears.

Clay Clayton, the young tragedian, is meeting with good success in the large cities and is winning encouraging opinions from the critics.

Lotta is rapidly recovering from the operation she underwent and will soon leave the sanitarium, but will not be able to play this season.

Neil Burgess, who has overflowing loads of shining ducats, will reach out for increasing riches with a new "Hayseed" play next year.

Edwin Booth is back in New York and is said to be quite feeble. He did not receive much benefit by his sojourn in the country.

The Chicago critics did not like John T. McNally's piece, "A Mad Bargain," but the public did and business has been large.

Marie Wainwright, who has been seriously ill at Chicago, has recovered and has returned to her professional labors.

James J. Corbett will temporarily retire from the stage in February in order to indulge in another "scraper."

Victorien Sardou has just completed a new play for Charles Frohman called "La Belle Americaine."

Mr. Henry E. Rivers will begin her American tour at the Manhattan Opera house tomorrow night.

Robert E. Graham, the comedian, is enjoying a continual financial triumph in "Larry the Lord."

Henry E. Dixey is going to try a comic opera, entitled "Mr. Dodd of Chicago."

Frank Daniels will launch his new comedy, "Blood Will Tell," next week.

I said in Fun.

"I wish I could give a performance that would really be appreciated," said the actor. "I will tell you what to do," said his friend; "announce your positively last appearance."—Washington Star

Boggs—Hello there, Joggs, what are you going to do with that keg of powder? Joggs—I am going to try to blow myself away from a porous platform that's on my back.—Harvard Lampoon.

Miss—Do you call this sponge cake? Why, it's as hard as can be. New Cook—Yes, mum; that's the way a sponge is before it's wet. Soak it in your tea, mum.—New York Weekly.

"I will now proceed to draw the color line," said the bookkeeper as he seized his red ink pen.—Washington Star.

Sim Pathizer—You look raven down, old man. Kant Helput—I am. My creditors are after me everywhere.—Detroit Free Press.

Always a Gentleman.

Party with Dog—Yer see I had him down, with my foot on his neck, and I could ha' hit him den an dere, when his wife rushed in an begged me fur ter spare his life. I wuz jist goin ter hit her a clip, when I reckerlected dat it wouldn't do to strike a woman, so I shoved her up agin the mantelpiece jist easy enough to make her faint, and after I got her pocketbook I let the house widout molestin her, as I wanted to give her to understand dat a feller could be a prize fighter an still be a gentleman.—LIFE.

HERE'S A NEW ONE

The Latest Fad in Select Soci-
ety Circles Is

AUTOGRAPH HANDKERCHIEFS

Society Squibs Chronicled for the Benefit
and Entertainment of Both Sexes.
Personal Paragraphs.

From time immemorial collections of autographs have been made in one way or another, but not until recently has a man's handkerchief been appropriated for such a use. This, however, is the latest fad—the autograph handkerchief. Autograph albums were once the proper thing, then when crazy quilts were the "rage" it was not uncommon to see autograph quilts; the birthday book enjoyed its day, but now that it, too, has become an old story, the autograph handkerchief has displaced them all. It is the thing to secure a gentleman's fine linen hem-stitched handkerchief and invite one's friends to inscribe their names thereon. The autographs are then outlined in bright and various colors by the fair owner. When completely filled with names the effect is both novel and pretty. One of the most pleasing of these was placed upon a reception table, and on it was set a beautiful hand-painted china vase. Some of these handkerchiefs are covered with names, while others show the hem ornamented by a fancy stitch. Sometimes a space in the center is marked off in a form to suit the owner, and outlined, an appropriate motto is then embroidered. One young woman, who has lately issued invitations, has a handkerchief in readiness for her guests to write their autographs upon. The hem is embroidered, while the center, outlined in the form of a clover, bears the motto, "My Guests," and the date done in bright colors. This fad originated in Washington, where it is very popular. Autograph bureaus scarce, table mats and guest chamber table pieces are also in favor and one senator's wife even went so far as to have an autograph petticoat. It was of white silk and the names were confined to the hem.

Remarkable French Woman.

The marquise de Bloqueville, who died a few days ago in Paris, was one of the most beautiful women of her time, and, like most French beauties, had considerable political influence.

The marquise was the youngest daughter of Marshal Dequost, Prince d'Eckmuhl, duke of Aumstadt. Two of her sisters, also famous for their good looks, married respectively the duke of Cambaceres and Count Vigier. The marquise was a great favorite at the court of Louis Philippe and was the intimate friend of Queen Amelia and the duchess of Orleans. In early womanhood her features were of the perfect Greek type, her eyes and hair a brilliant black. Enthusiastic writers of Louis Philippe's day described her

figure as divine, and her gait and carriage as those of a goddess. She was a handsome woman at the time of her death.

As to Social Obligations.

In her second article in the Forum on Hull House and its great humanitarian work Miss Adams has something to say about those wealthy devotees of polite society as distinguished from society in general who live for themselves alone. "The time may come," in her opinion, when the politician who sells one by one to the highest bidder all the offices in his grasp will not be considered more base in his code of morals, more hardened in his practice, than the woman who constantly invites to her receptions those alone who bring her an equal social return, who shares her beautiful surroundings only with those who minister to a liking she has for successful social events. In doing this she is just as unscrupulous in her use of power, as is any city "boss" who consults only the interests of the "ring."

Modjeska's Youth.

To some one who questioned her about the statement attributed to her that she preserved her youthful appearance and beauty by husbanding her emotions Mme. Modjeska replied: "Modjeska economical of her emotions—why, I am not even economical with my money. I am the veriest spendthrift that ever lived of smiles and tears and dollars. It is that I have still retained the power to feel everything, whether glad or sad, most intensely, to laugh and cry within the same moment almost, that keeps me young. Youth is not careful for anything, but wastes itself on every emotion, sure of the fullness of its fount of feeling."

For Society Folks.

Ex-Queen Nathalie of Serbia is building herself a very beautiful chateau on her property near Bucharest. Her majesty intends to pass the winters at Baccus and the summers at her new residence.

As long ago as 1778 a certificate was granted by President Ezra Stiles of Yale college to a young woman who had passed the examinations necessary to enter the college, but was debarred on account of her sex.

Two or three young ladies who live in a suburb of London have started a carrier pigeon post among themselves. They have each a couple of birds and send notes to each other, irrespective of the post or telegraph office.

G. Vere Tyler, author of the remarkable novel, "A Prodigal Daughter," is not, as is generally supposed, a man, but a very charming young woman, of the same sort as Amelia Rives, and a daughter-in-law of ex-President Tyler.

The family of the stern and despotic czar are so romantic and passionate in temperament it would seem, by the frequency of morganatic alliances entered into by its members. Now the Grand Duke Nicholas will wed the woman Mme. Bourinne, the widow of a merchant.

The late Mrs. Duncan Stewart, who knew well most of the English authors of the last sixty years, used to say of Leigh Hunt that she believed him to

(Continued on Tenth Page.)

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DRAPERY
AND
DECORATIONS.

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FURNITURE COMPANY,

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MORSE'S
DEPARTMENT
STORE

Monroe and Spring
Streets.

What is going on
in the city today?

"Good Old Times" at Redmond's.

What is going on
at Morse's today?

Grand Sale in Bound Books.
Reduction Sale of Dress Goods.
Mark Down of Kirk's Family Soap.

We had a fine trade last week—better by far than that of any previous election week—and we feel so good that we are going to start the ball rolling vigorously for Monday. Just look at this once, 1,000 volumes of Books by standard authors, handsomely bound in cloth and gold, fit for any library, for 15c. You WANT IT! Come in early and select while the assortment is complete.

1,000 volumes Choice Books for 15c, nicely bound in Cloth and Gold, all Standard Authors and suitable for any library.

Housekeepers, just look at this. How is 15c a BAR FOR KIRK'S FAMILY SOAP? Isn't 2c a bar quite a saving? Monday is wash day and you want this.

And once more for the ladies. We will show you an assorted lot of Dress Goods for 37½c, in one lot to close; double width, all wool; have sold for 50c. DON'T LET THIS ESCAPE YOU.

We might say, by way of parenthesis, that our clearing sale of Cloaks and Millinery is attracting a swarm of buyers. Hadn't you better drop in?

MORSE'S DEPARTM'T STORE
MONROE AND SPRING STS.